

COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY CENTRE

PRESSURE is to be put on the Glasgow District Council and Strathclyde Region as to the decision on the use of Maryhill Burgh Hall as a Community Centre for Maryhill (to include Summerston, Wyndford, Gairbraid, Garrioch etc.).

It was decided that a delegation for Wyndford District Comm. Council approach the Planning Office of Glasgow District Council.

MARYHILL CENTRAL STATION SITE

A STERN letter has been sent to British Rail asking whether they are averse to a Job Creation Programme scheme to clean up the site and if so, why? This has been asked many times and a non-committal reply has been received as frequently. Pressure is now being put.

how effective will the pressure be?

Partick

A SECOND community involvement meeting to discuss proposals for a "better Partick" was held in the St. Bride's Centre on Wednesday night.

The meeting, a follow-up to a unique community involvement scheme launched recently, aptly named "Partick Action Day", was called to discuss further the problems in the area, how they can be rectified, and decide how to make Partick "a decent place to live."

Unfortunately, at the time of the meeting we had already gone to press but we will carry a report in next week's issue.

The scheme itself is unprecedented in that discussions involve local people, with not a planner of any other official in sight. It's a different because local people have decided to get things done for themselves. They are sick and tired of the "couldn't care less" authorities who have done nothing for the area. So now they are getting together to discuss the situation, and take action. Watch out for next week's report.

YOUNG WYNDFORD

THERE is to be a special meeting of the Wyndford District Community Council Steering Committee and the young people of the Wyndford.

Plans for a project involving all the community but especially the teenagers is envisaged by the Steering Committee and the Wyndford Tenants Association who have been offered the use of an unused garage area by the S.S.H.A.

It has many facilities and ideas are being tossed about as to its full potential.

In a month, interested young people will get together and thrash out their needs and wants and with the backing of the Tenants Association and the W.D.C. should entail. The young people themselves feel 'abandoned and uninvolved' and this should be the very thing to get them together for their very own venture. We will keep in touch and report back the outcome.

INVOLVED

community action arising out of

FRUSTRATION

Their own thing

MANY people of Gairbraid have been anxious for years to have their own Association to help re-vitalise and rejuvenate their area.

Some people have got together and will hold a meeting in Gairbraid Primary School on 4th October (Monday) at 7.30.

There will be representatives from the Glasgow Voluntary Services, local clergymen, local councillors - but remember, the Association will be for you, the people of Gairbraid, and it will be up to you what type of Association it will be! So go along on Monday night, you have nothing to lose and everything to gain!!

Councils must trim budgets

BY A STAFF REPORTER

Local authorities in Scotland have been warned that they must "toe the line" next year and reduce their expenditure according to the guidelines laid down by the Government.

The Government warning came yesterday in a finance circular which spelled out quite clearly that the regions and districts can expect no increase in rate support grant in the coming year.

They are promised instead, a reduction in the present level of support under which 72.5% of their spending is funded by central government.

They will also face a cut of £5 in money which would normally be paid to them under an increase order to cover inflation in the current year.

While yesterday's circular did not come as a surprise to local authorities it did add to their problems. The Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and individual councils have already made the point that they have taken economy as far as they can without trimming essential services.

In June of this year Mr Bruce Millan, Secretary of State of Scotland, told the regions and districts that they must trim the total local authority budget by £47m this year.

Reports now submitted by

the local authorities show that only £2m has been trimmed off their budget leaving an overbudgeting of £45m as far as the Scottish Office are concerned.

Mr Millan makes it clear in the circular that the rate support grant for 1977-78 will be negotiated on the assumption that expenditure will not exceed the £1030m figure set by the Government for the current year. The only increase will be an allowance for inflation.

This means that the authorities can look for no increase in real terms and must, instead, cut their budgets by a total of £45m to comply with the guideline.

Where an authority disregards this guidance they will have to finance any over-spending entirely from rates.

Authorities are asked to look at the possibility of increasing charges for their services and the Scottish Office calculations are based on the assumption that council house rents will increase by between 55p and 60p a week next year.

Mr Millan accepts that the cuts he is calling for will mean that local authorities must reduce staffs. At the same time he has asked them to examine carefully all possible alternatives to redundancies and to bear in mind the need for full consultations with unions.

Power = Money ?
= Resources

When money is cut, who has a say in what cuts should be made ?

The community ?
(What about the lollipop men, then?)

More power for governors, say Labour

School governing bodies should control part of the school budget and be consulted about what is taught, the Labour Party's national executive committee said in a statement published this week.

The governors should include parents, teachers, ancillary staff, local authority representatives and, in secondary schools, pupils. Governing boards should have much more say in the running of schools, the statement says. They should be consulted about organization, discipline and curriculum matters including streaming, the use of school buildings, the setting up of new departments and the appointment of head teachers and staff. "Two facets of school life which are rightly regarded by parents as the most important activities of the school are the maintenance of educational standards and the relevance of the curriculum. They are important to parents because they have a decisive influence on their children's personal development, on their opportunities in further education and on their future jobs. "But this need for the standard of education, and the content of the curricula, to provide each child with maximum opportunities to develop his or her potential, is the concern of the community as a whole as well as the parent."

The proposals for greater community involvement will ensure that school curricula will be more relevant to the needs of the community, the statement says. It will also ensure that a standard of education is attained which is acceptable to the community as a whole. Training courses for governors and regular meetings of all authority's governors are recommended. The statement also says that parents should have the right to choose which types of comprehensive to send their children to.

• Grass roots participation ?

The many faces
of
Participation.

WHY THE GREAT DEVOLUTION COVER-UP?

The People sometimes think they have NO SAY (or very little) in Decisions about ones life.

Devolution and the mood of Scotland

PRESSURE for a referendum on devolution and Scotland's position within the Union is mounting. Proponents of the idea claim that it would settle the issue once and for all. And the Government seems certain to give way to this pressure and hold a referendum in Scotland next year.

WHY is it that the politicians will not trust the people?

In the past month, the fear our elected representatives have of the people they are supposed to serve has reached disturbing levels. It is not unusual for our leaders to draw up their plans in secret, to "leak" their private thoughts in a way craftily designed to mould public opinion, and then to pick just the right moment to seek approval for them.

That, after all, is how most General Elections happen. It is how Ted Heath got us into Europe.

But at least, everyone has a say in an informal debate that reaches into every public bar and front parlour. And that's as it should be, where matters of great constitutional moment are concerned.

So why have the politicians made devolution the big exception? They treat it like the Victorians treated table-legs, and the big cover-up doesn't just extend to the ordinary you-and-me's.

Even the party faithful are denied the right to give the political leaders their views.

The most the Labour and Conservative conferences could give to debate on the floor was less than an hour-and-a-half.

And their excuse? Why, the jocks had already discussed it fully at their own funny conferences up there, hadn't they? So there was no need to talk about it down here, was there?

It is rather strange that, when it comes to deciding what form of government is best for Scotland, London knows best. But when it comes to DEBATING that decision, suddenly the only people who matter are the Scots.

The fact is, the Government, and the Conservative leadership, are nervous about the results of a proper debate not only among the ordinary people of the United Kingdom, but also the majority of their elected representatives.

The doctrine of central control as a precondition of Socialist progress makes Labour MPs very wary about relinquishing decision-making to Edinburgh. But they will vote for it, because they fear Labour might be wiped out in Scotland in the next General Election, if they block it.

Belief in the union makes an awful lot of Tories very unhappy about the Bill, but will they vote against it?

Ah well, now. It's not irreversible, y'know. And they don't want to appear to be the ones who wrecked Scotland's chances of bringing government closer to home.

So the Bill will go through, but not because MPs, having debated it in detail in advance, believe it is the best solution, or because the Scots themselves selected it as the most preferable form of power-sharing . . . even if there is a referendum.

The politicians do not trust us enough for that. Perhaps that is why we don't trust them as much as we used to. And isn't that where the whole business of devolution started?

The community school. PARTICIPATION.

BUILDING A NEW SCHOOL

Joe Daley is Parish Priest of St. Bernard's, Kingsley Road, and Chairman of the Managers of St. Bernard's School which is soon to be rebuilt. Here he writes:—

Is a school built in 1883 all right for today? Education has changed so much that the answer is a big NO. Today a school building does not speak of children and teachers only. A school today is part of the whole life of the community. Children are taught *not* in the isolation of the school, much less in a classroom. They are taught within the family, the street, the neighbourhood in which they grow up. The school building is more of a base, ordering and supporting all the experiences through which a child learns, and so develops into a more mature, responsible person in the community. The whole community must somehow be involved in the school.

We need more than an architect. The planning of a new school needs the advice and ideas of teachers, and of the parents. The children as well play a part. They are entitled to ask

questions about proposed plans. Their knowledge and interest will grow as they see their new school develop from a plan on paper to actual bricks and mortar, and the school will become a centre of activity and adventure which will enrich their whole development.

Another Question

But we must ask. Is a school built in the 1970s all right for today? Surprisingly the answer is again a big NO. Schools are not planned according to the needs of the children in a particular area.

MONEY decides. The Department of Science and Technology allots for 1973/74 the *minimum* requirements. This keeps down the costs. Also the Ministry still sees a school as a

building for teaching children more or less in the old traditional way. No provision is made for community, parent involvement. In its 'costing' the Department must so often pay only lip-service to genuine educational planning because of lack of money.

Some Hope

There is a future. Open planning; an atmosphere of movement and initiative; the shared experiences of parents, children and teachers — all these can overcome the inadequacies of the actual building.

power

T/SOL/6/1/4/2

THE FREE SCHOOL
Glasgow's Community School in Barrowfield has received much publicity in the media in the last year and, rather than repeat himself at length, Mr. Addison, its organiser, has decided to indicate how it functions, thus:

UNCLASSIFIED

BY PUBLIC DEMAND

Currently happening in Glasgow's East End with a cast of 100's.

BARROWFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL

1 St Marnock Street, G40

BY APPOINTMENT

To the Parents and Children of Barrowfield, Suppliers of a Choice since June 1973

STARRING

Eighteen teenagers with high enough IQ to recognise their previous schools as inadequate and/or a fake.

SUPPORTING ROLES

Played by parents, 2 full-time teachers many part-time teachers, two or three charities and a host of friends.

FEATURING

Barrowfield; The People of Barrowfield; The City of Glasgow; Its councillors and officials; The Education Department; Planning Department; Social Work Department; Sanitary Department; Fire Department; Children's Panels; Shops and offices; Houses and streets; Factories and banks; Courts and colleges; Free Schools, List D Schools; The Media; The Land; And other people, places and situations too numerous to mention.

And without which it would not be necessary to write this story ...

The SYSTEM that created Barrowfield so that Bearsden could exist.

FREE SCHOOL

YB

YOU KNOW IT MAKES SENSE!

NO COMMENT